/593 cont./

264 pokes into them with a little stick, constantly shifting the glowing embers or piling the hot ashes higher. He gets particular pleasure out of entertaining himself in this way, until he can give himself up completely to enjoying them. When the pieces are done and have proved to be very delicious, he clicks his tongue with delight and lets everybody around him know in what gluttonous ecstasy he is feasting. During the trip in the canoe every occupant must cautiously move up to the small fire, and one moves away when another person wants to roast something for himself. The woman, whose duty it is to do the rowing, must regularly go without food for hours, but she makes up for it later on the beach. If circumstances make it imperative -- usu-
261 ally it is bad weather -- everyone can get along all right without
147 food for considerable time. On the other hand, if one finds himself with a great abundance, he can consume almost incalculable amounts. A person can gain weight quickly, but he can just as quickly grow thin again; one can best trace these changes in children over a period of a few days. Their health apparently does not suffer, however (380).

380. Lothrop (c):303 has expressed some conjectures about the relation between diet and physical size in Tierra del Fuego, but he cites only inadequate observations which are not sustained by actual facts.

264 In conclusion, it becomes clear from certain customs that
151 the Fuegian is guided by definite rules in eating. For example, he does not bother with very dirty meat, but throws it away without further ado. Something that has been nibbled at by a dog he angrily lets him have. /594/ He removes decaying pieces of meat as far as possible from his hut, whereas he does not seem to have any feeling about melting fat or moldy skins. His sense of smell is unquestionably very much dulled, and he never holds a doubtful piece up to his nose. Anything that has become putrid has to give off a vile odor before he will remove it. He is certainly not clean in eating and in his ways. Nevertheless, one person will prove to be more of a greedy gourmet, the other less. He knows the tastier pieces and the juicier morsels and chooses

/594 cont./

264 these if possible. The tender meat of young animals tickles his
157 palate, and the height of ecstacy for him is the nicely browned fat of a whale that has been stranded for some time. There are many things that conclusively prove that a Fuegian's taste is by no means insensible or dulled, no matter how uniform the taste of everything that he eats on account of so much blubber.

## 5. How They Store Food

251 The unsettled way of life and their uninterrupted changes of
261 dwelling do not permit the Yamana to lay in large supplies. The general statement of Hyades (d):306 "They do not make any provision for the future" /translated from French/, applies without qualification, since they do not strive to provide for the immediate or the distant future. A decisive factor may be that food does not keep in that arbitrarily inclement weather, and in order to preserve it, one would have to go through all kinds of complicated preparations. All this is superfluous, because throughout the entire year and with almost limitless generosity the sea puts all kinds of animals at the disposal of the man who hunts and the woman who gathers. Storm or accident will deprive a family of these things for no more than a few days. Generally no one need reckon with the danger of hunger, and everyone almost anywhere finds an abundance of what he needs (381).

381. Bridges' (h):205 brief statement says a great deal: "In general, food is abundant" /translated from Spanish/.

Why, then, should anyone worry about food for the future (382)!

382. Hyades (g):34 writes: "The most wonderful thing about the Fuegians is that they never think of providing for the next day. And yet winter is severe enough and there are by no means few periods when the Fuegian can neither hunt nor fish nor even pick up mussels on the rocks

/1442 cont./

153 This healthy curiosity is combined with a goodly measure of desire for knowledge and aptitude for being taught.

●151 In the development of their sensory activity the Fuegians by far surpass us Europeans, and the acuteness of their senses sometimes amazes us, as all critics agree. The sharp eyes of the Yamana miss practically nothing, not the least change, no matter how insignificant, along his path, in his tools, in another person. With sure judgment he recognizes the tracks and traces of animals along the ground, as well as the occupants of a canoe appearing on the horizon. His eye is unerring in observations close at hand or at a distance. Even in old age everyone enjoys excellent vision, although some older people become farsighted, so that if they are looking at or working over smaller objects they must hold them farther away from their eyes. The eyes of the natives can stand direct sunlight and strong light from the hut fire far better than would be possible for European eyes. Hyades (f):580 and (p):329 declares: "The Fuegians have satisfactory visual acuity and... they are, in general, gifted with a great power of accommodation" /translated from French/. Darwin (f):I, 43 affirms briefly from his experience: "I had ample opportunity to observe the extraordinary eyesight of the [201] Fuegians" (353). Their amazing skill in sign language must also

353. He (d):239 also says by way of supplement: "Their eyesight was remarkably acute. York and Yemmy both were considerably superior to all the sailors on board; several times they said what some distant object was, and, although everyone doubted it, they proved to be right when the object was examined through a telescope. They were well aware of this ability." Bove (c):125 and others agree.

be mentioned here. In a way unintelligible to others they can reliably send even important messages to a person and transmit them to the person for whom they /1443/ are intended. This explains the mistrust of everyone toward all those who form a

/1443 cont./

• 151 larger social group. Hyades (q):196 conducted careful investigations in order to determine the physiological soundness of the eyes of our Yamana.

Since the Fuegians must very attentively note everything around them, they also need their sense of hearing, day and night. The softest sound or the slightest noise does not escape them any more than it does a watchful dog; one would think that they were constantly pricking up their ears. It may be, as Hyades (q):329 says, that "their hearing is as sharp and has the same range as that of most Europeans" /translated from French/, but our Fuegians are more alert; hence they consciously absorb more than Europeans. Constant practice makes it very easy for them to trace individual noises accurately back to their cause, to distinguish the voices of birds and mammals, and to interpret even very faint sounds reliably. It is strange that an unusually violent rending of the air, for example, a loud bang or a shrill whistle, neither startles nor annoys them.

To judge from what was said about our Indians' feeling for cleanliness (p. 87 ), one might regard their sense of smell as highly insensitive. Hyades (q):209 expresses himself in this vein: "Olfactory sensitiveness is quite blunted among the Fuegians; they do not seem to make a distinction between what we call good and bad odors" /translated from French/. With all this, however, I do not mean to say that their sense of smell is less effective than that of a European. Even the Yamana many times lets his nose decide whether a piece of meat has started to decay and hence has become inedible, or whether putrid matter makes a certain spot uninhabitable for him (p. 28 ). The stench of human or dog excrement arouses passionate repugnance. They have become so completely accustomed to their own skin odor, which is disgusting to Europeans, that they do not seem to notice it at all.

In seeking food and in eating, the Yamana are obviously selective (p. 323). Their sense of taste decides clearly enough what appeals to their palate more or less or not at all. They are crazy, so to speak, about the taste of a few things, for example, liquid blubber in a short piece of gut (Fig. 99) and certain pieces of whale meat (p. 310). Their country furnishes them extraordinarily few sweets (p. 301); hence in recent times people eat

/1443 cont./

151 extravagant amounts of sugar. Their desire for salt is slight for obvious reasons; they get enough of it in their exclusively meat diet (p. 301 ). They do not really enjoy alcoholic beverages, but most present-day Yamana desire them very much because of their intoxicating effect (p. 302). Even if a person is tormented by hunger he will refuse things abhorrent to his taste.

151 /1444/ At first glance it seems as though there were some-
147 thing peculiar about the sense of touch of our Fuegians. In reality this is not the case; according to Hyades (p):328, also, "their tactile sensitiveness is neither more nor less developed than among the French observers" /translated from French/. The Yamana, however, is not sensitive and plaintive to the same extent as a European. He feels cold and heat, frost and the sun's rays, the sharp stones on the ground and the hardness of his bed, injuries and wounds, but he accepts all hardship with equanimity and bears it silently. If a person must constantly endure considerable pain, he merely groans and whimpers softly. Whenever he can easily /Fig. 99 appears here./ make himself a little more comfortable, he does not fail to do so, but if the annoyance cannot be avoided, he pays no attention to it and makes the best of it. Certainly his skin, especially that of hands and feet, does not react as much as that of Europeans who are constantly protecting themselves with clothing and closed dwellings. He has, however, also hardened himself to a great extent against outward stimuli, and therefore he controls his feelings far better. The many delicate and precise objects made by him show that there is fine feeling even in his heavy hands and clumsy fingers. Moreover, the dexterity that every Yamana shows on the hunt and in setting traps argues for well-developed senses (354).

354. Even Darwin (f):I, 63 was amazed at this and says: "To hit a mark accurately with a stone, as a Fuegian can when he is obliged to defend himself, or to kill birds requires perfection in the efficient correlation of the muscles of the hand, arm, and shoulders, not to mention a fine sense of touch."